GODMANCHESTER

Urban District Council.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester

FOR THE YEAR 1907.

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.

HUNTINGDON:

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SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Year, 1907.

Number of Houses Inspected	300
,, ,, ,, Re-inspected	35
Drains repaired	21
Yards paved	12
New Earth Closets	3
Houses disinfected after illness	4
Vaults filled in	1
Samples of Water Analyzed	2
Cases of Overcrowding remedied	2
Cow Lodges drained	1
Animal Nuisances	3

The Schools :—

Girls and Infants New Drainage System and Boys School Lavatory and Urinals Improved.

C. MAYFIELD,

INSPECTOR.

TO THE
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,659 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river, with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

It is a purely agricultural district with a tendency to fall in the matter of population, there being a difference of 78 between the Census 1891 and 1901.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled. The gravelling of the yards is still far from what it ought to be, and I hope to see further improvement in this respect.

At the present time there are no Bye-laws compelling people to submit plans to your Surveyor before building new dwelling-houses.

Sewers and Sewerage.

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage. The sewers discharge into two brooks which coalesce at a distance of from 400 to 500 yards, and form one stream which empties itself into the Hemingford head of the river Ouse, about 1½ miles distant.

Very little fœcal matter passes through the sewers as the pail system is almost universally adopted.

The sewers are well flushed with water from the river from the Godmanchester head, and by means of water pumped into a tank at the upper end of the system by a ram at the old water mill, which supplies the motive power. The old brick sewers are being re-placed by sanitary pipes from time to time.

The pail system is adopted for the removal of excrement, which is carted out of the Borough in your own carts and by your own men, and disposed of in a field far removed from any possible risk of well pollution. House refuse is also removed in the same way and placed in the same field, except when occupiers choose to cart it to their own fields or allotments outside the Borough proper. The removal of house refuse is much facilitated by the use of sanitary dust-bins which are being generally adopted. The refuse is removed once a week or oftener if required.

Water Supply.

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley; this is liable to pollution. Notices have been posted on all the pumps advising the inhabitants to boil their water before using it for drinking purposes.

Two samples of water were sent for analysis during the year, both were pronounced unfit for drinking purposes.

Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Factories (of which only one now exists, a Flour Mill) are regularly visited by the Inspector, who also periodically inspects the schools.

Abatement of Nuisances.

Your Surveyor gives notice as to the abatement of nuisances and if not attended to reports to your Authority.

Isolation Hospital.

No Isolation Hospital has been provided. I hope your Authority may see their way to make arrangements for the treatment of Infectious Diseases at the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital. Two Third Class Carriages have been secured for the reception of cases of Small Pox, and placed in a very suitable situation.

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out by your Inspector principally by means of the Formic Aldehyde Lamp.

Inspections.

In December last I made a systematic Inspection of the whole district, accompanied by your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. I have made other Inspections when diseases or nuisances existed to which my attention had been called. Your Inspector has ordered all insanitary conditions existing to be remedied, and has seen that his instructions are carried out.

Births and Deaths.

During the year the births of 51 children have been registered, 32 males and 19 females; an average of 25·2 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 32 persons residing in the Borough, and of four persons belonging to the district, one in the Three Counties Asylum, two in the County Hospital, and one in the Military Hospital, Huntingdon, make a total of 36, a rate of 17·84 per 1000 persons living. Two deaths occurred in children under one year of age, and 18 in persons above 65 years of age; of these 14 were 70 years of age and upwards. I would call your attention to the exceedingly low rate of Infantile Mortality, the lowest for the last ten years.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

Five cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the year—three of Erysipelas and two of Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria occurred.

Erysipelas.

Three cases of Erysipelas were notified; no insanitary conditions were present in any one case.

Scarlet Fever.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in two different houses. The origin of the disease could not be traced.

Small Pox and Vaccination.

No case of Small Pox was notified. I fear Vaccination Exemption Orders are much on the increase. I hope soon Re-Vaccination will be made compulsory, as in the absence of Small Pox the necessity for Re-Vaccination is lost sight of.

Enteric Fever.

No case of Enteric Fever was notified.

Diseases of Respiratory Organs.

Five deaths from diseases of Respiratory Organs were registered, making an average death-rate of 2·4 per 1000 persons living.

Phthisis.

Two deaths from Phthisis and other tubercular diseases occurred, making an average death-rate of ·98 per 1000 persons living. Phthisis should be added to the list of compulsory notifiable diseases, so that directions might be given as to the disposal of the sputum, and that houses might be disinfected after the removal or death of the patients. Disinfection is carried out where practicable.

Cancer.

Three deaths from Cancer were registered during the year, making an average death-rate of 1·4 per 1000 persons living.

Food and Drugs Adulteration.

One sample of Lard, one of Butter, one of Brandy, and one of Whisky were analyzed during the year, and all found to be genuine.

Mortuary.

A public Mortuary exists.

I append Table 1, Vital Statistics of the whole District and previous years.

Table 3, of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table 4, Causes of, and ages at death during the year.

Table 5, Infantile Mortality during the year.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report.

And the Factory and Workshops Report.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Godmanchester Urban District Council.

HUNTINGDON,

January 31st, 1908.

TABLE I.—GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District	
				Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1897	2095	65	31·06	10	153·8	34	16·2	...	...	3	37	17·6
1898	2095	59	28·1	8	135·5	30	14·3	...	...	5	35	16·7
1899	2095	62	29·5	8	129·0	38	18·1	...	...	7	45	21·4
1900	2095	62	29·5	17	274·1	39	18·6	...	...	8	47	22·4
1901	2017	56	27·7	5	89·2	26	12·8	...	...	3	29	14·3
1902	2017	53	26·2	7	132·0	34	16·8	...	...	3	37	18·3
1903	2017	57	28·2	6	105·2	29	14·3	...	...	3	32	15·9
1904	2017	54	26·7	3	55·5	29	14·3	...	...	2	31	15·3
1905	2017	61	30·2	11	180·3	34	16·8	...	...	1	34	16·8
1906	2017	52	25·7	10	192·3	37	18·3	...	...	10	47	23·3
Averages for years 1897—1906.	2048	58·1	28·28	8·5	144·69	33	16·05	...	...	4·5	37·4	18·2
1907	2017	51	25·2	2	39·2	32	15·8	...	...	4	36	17·8

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water). 4659

Total population at all ages 2017
Number of Inhabited houses 500
Average number of persons per house 3·8

At Census of 1901.

Public Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—Addenbrooke Hospital Cambridge, Huntingdon Union Workhouse, Huntingdon County Hospital, Three Counties Asylum, Arlesey.

TABLE III.—Godmanchester Urban District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1907.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN ALL DISTRICTS.						
	At Ages †—Years.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small Pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria							
Membranous crop							
Erysipelas	3					1	2
Scarlet Fever	2		2				
Typhus Fever							
Enteric Fever							
Relapsing Fever							
Continued Fever							
Puerperal Fever							
Plague							
TOTALS	5		2			1	2

NO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

TABLE IV.—Godmanchester Urban District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occuring in or beyond the district.						
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 20	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Diarrhœa							
Phthisis	1					1	
Other tubercular diseases	1	1					
Other Septic diseases ...	2			2			
Cancer, malignant disease	3					3	
Bronchitis	1		1				
Pneumonia ..... -	4				1	1	2
Venereal Diseases							
Premature Birth	1	1					
Heart Diseases.....	5					3	2
Alcoholism							
Suicides.....							
All other causes	18					5	13
All Causes	36	2	1	2	1	13	17

TABLE V.—BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of Age

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total Under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes Certfied	/				/												2
All Causes Uncertified																	
Premature Birth	1				1												1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...																	
Other Tubercular Diseases ...								1									1
Bronchitis																	
Other Causes																	
	1				1			1									2

Births in the year. { Legimate ... 51 / Illegitimate ... 0 }

Population Estimated to middle of 1906. 2017.

Deaths Legimate 36. Illegitimate 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 36.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1907 for the Urban District of Godmanchester.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, & Homework.

1.—Inspections.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	2	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	20	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces		Nil.	Nil.
Homeworkers' Premises ...	Nil.		
Total	22	—	—

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied	Referee to H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions.
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.